

## ABSTRACT

An adjustable grading system 10 comprises a frame 12, a plurality of elongated bars 14 retained at opposite ends within the frame 12 and moveable along the frame, and a spreading device 16. The spreading device 16 is provided with a plurality of recesses 18 each for receiving a bar 14. Adjacent recesses 18 are spaced apart by a pre-determined spacing distance D and separated by a tooth 20. The spreading device 16 includes first and second combs 40 and 42 each of which are pivotally coupled to link bars 46 and 48. The pivot connection allows the spreading device 16 to be manipulated so that the distance between the combs 40 and 42 can be varied while maintaining them parallel to each other. A group of bars 14 can be spaced by the spacing distance D by orientating the device 16 so that the combs 40 and 42 extend diagonally across the group of bars 14 at an angle so that their respective teeth 20 are disposed between adjacent bars 14. The combs are then pushed onto the bars 14 so that individual bars are guided into respective recesses. By manipulating the device 16 so that the combs 40 and 42 lie substantially transversely to the bars 14, the bars 14 are spaced by the spacing distance D.